



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

January 25, 2003

Dear Dredge Disposal Working Group Member,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is undertaking a review of its initial management plan. A decade of experience protecting the marine ecosystem and working with the community has helped us to identify issues and strategies that should potentially be incorporated into our management scheme. Over the last year and a half these issues were further honed over a series of public scoping meetings and workshops with our Sanctuary Advisory Council. From this process we have identified fifteen specific issues that we will seek additional public input on in a working group format. This working group will help the Sanctuary further define the potential strategies and actions to address the issue of dredge disposal.

We want to thank each of you for agreeing to lend your expertise to this issue and we look forward to working with you over the coming months. This package is to provide you with background information regarding the Sanctuary, the management plan review process. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with as much of this material as possible before our first meeting on January 31st. We appreciate the value of your time and it is our aim to make this first meeting as substantive as possible. Enclosed you will find the following materials:

- Scoping Comments Related to the Issue of Dredge Disposal
- Roles and Responsibilities of Working Group Members
- Working Group Consensus-based Decision Making
- Dredge Disposal Work Group Agenda for January 31st

I hope that you find these documents useful in understanding the purpose and objectives of the management plan review and working group processes. If you have any questions before the meeting please feel free to contact me at 831-647-4207, or at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov. There is also a section of our website that will be devoted to postings, contacts, and information specific to each working group at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>. Again, the first meeting is Friday, January 31st from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street in Monterey. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Hall

Program Specialist

